

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 261045Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5846

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR IS UR

SUBJ: SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

1. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS HERE ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF MOSCOW'S ALLEGED RECENT ENVOYS TO ISRAEL, BUT CURRENT SPECULATION CENTER ON IZVESTIYA DEPUTY EDITOR V. KUDRYAVTSEV.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID APRIL 24 THAT, ACCORDING TO THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, MOSCOW'S EMISSARY TO TEL AVIV WAS V. KUDRYAVTSEV, IZVESTIYA DEPUTY EDITOR WHO LED A DELEGATION FROM THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE TO SYRIA AND LEBANON IN APRIL. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH, THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED KUDRYAVTSEV MADE HIS CONTACTS DURING AN UNEXPLAINED EIGHT-DAY DISAPPEARANCE FROM LEBANON IN THE MIDST OF HIS RECENT TRIP. AMBASSADOR TOLD THE FRENCH THAT WHEN HE ASKED MFA WHETHER KUDRYAVTSEV HAD VISITED ISRAEL, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET OFFICIAL DID NOT DENY IT, AND COMMENTED ONLY THAT

KUDRYAVTSEV IS NOT A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. BRITISH RECENTLY PURSUED KUDRYAVTSEV THEORY WITH ONE-TIME SOVIET EMISSARY TO TEL AVIV VIKTOR LOUIS, WHO DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRIP BUT SAID THAT IF IT HAD INDEED TAKEN PLACE, "IT WOULD BE A GOOD GUESS" THAT KURYAVTSEV WAS THE SOVIET INVOLVED.

3. BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE ALSO HEARD CONFLICTING REPORT THAT ENVOYS WERE ORTHODOX PRIESTS, AND FRENCH HAVE BEENTOLD THATNIKODIM, CHAIRMAN OF THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE'S DEPARTMENT OF RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES, WILL VISIT ISRAEL AT THE END OF APRIL.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION TO CONFIRM EITHER OF THE ABOVE LINES OF SPECULATION ABOUT MOSCOW'S CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR APRIL 24 SOVIET ME SPECIALIST IGOR BELYAYEV SAID -- REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO BREZHNEV'S JUNE 14 SPEECH -- THAT RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A ME SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. BELYAYEV AVOIDED ANY COMMENT ON SOVIET-ISRAELI CONTACTS, ALTHOUGH HIS ASSOCIATION WITH AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE AND MOSCOW'S COMMUNITY OF ME SPECIALISTS ALMOST CERTAINLY PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE IS UNAWARE OF SOVIET-ISRAELI TALKS.
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